

PEACE

The Illumination of
Niagara Falls

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THE
ILLUMINATION
OF
NIAGARA FALLS



THE AURORA



Touched by the Beams of a Billion Candle Power Search Lights

PROLOGUE.

Out of the pitchiness of the night there darted a flash of light—and such a flash. It seemed like the combined strength of dozens of searchlights. It pierced the night like a hundred meteors thrown into one. It struck the waters of the mighty Niagara and flung them into living reality. Great billows of mist, giant waves of hurtling ferocity were turned into vivid monsters of action. All sorts of imaginary and grotesque shapes seemed revealed in this dazzling display. Suddenly all was darkness. The sable curtain of night once more descended. Again it was lifted and across the canyon streamed wonderful shafts of colors; lights of peculiar hues, mingling and melting and making the spray of the great cataracts to resemble fairy realms of enchantment. Foam crested waves of water ran crimson and leaped into violet, gold and green, successively, in their wild plunge into the gorge. It was a riot of glorious beauty, so new, so strange and so marvelous—so like some unearthly and unexplained magic that it held the spectator startled, then spellbound, speechless and delighted.





THE illumination of Niagara Falls is one of the leading suggestions advanced as a feature of properly celebrating the Centenary of Peace among nations of the world.

It has met with unanimous endorsement by statesmen, literati, and admirers of nature. Many members of the Peace Commissions of England, Canada and the United States, who have studied this proposal, have commended it.

The last armed hostilities between England and the United States were in the years 1812-1814, with peace agreed upon and treaty signed in 1815.

The principal acts in the war drama transpired along the Niagara river. Here the eyes of the world will naturally focus when extensive advertising and publicity is given the gratifying fact of these 100 years of abiding peace between these great nations.

What more attractive or aesthetic idea than that the cataraacts of the Niagara should be grandly illuminated in honor of this peace jubilee.

* * *

The scope of this illumination must, to be comprehensive, include not only the American and Horseshoe Falls, the great Gorge, but the Canadian Rapids above the Horseshoe.

The Rapids, from the viewpoint of moving water, form one of the beauty sights of this remarkable water show. The sheer abandon of the water as it hurls itself along in foam crested waves and tossing billows from terrace to terrace of the rocky bed of the river until it plunges over the brink of the Horseshoe will make an enchanting spectacle under the colored light effects. These rapids, capricious and ever-changing, present a vivid contrast to the stolid downpour of the Falls themselves.

* * *

The idea of tearing aside Night's dark curtain from the Niagara cataraacts was conceived in the minds of men of culture, ardent devotees of the beauties of nature and faithful adherents to the artistic in every-day life. Their plan was put in operation in 1907 when, by generous contributions of time and money and electric energy from the power companies, the falls were illuminated most brilliantly for three or four weeks.

The lighting was undertaken by the General Electric Company of the United States, one of the foremost electric apparatus producing plants in the world. The installation was under the special supervision of the most noted illuminating expert on the American continent, Mr. W. D'Arcy Ryan. Since that year the progress and development of electricity as an illuminant has been uninterrupted.

* * *

It is proposed, if the 100 Years' Peace Illumination is carried out, to install a permanent plant with batteries of the very latest improved searchlights, the strongest reflectors and vari-colored lenses of the largest make—all properly housed and protected for operation both summer and winter. Estimates by Mr. Ryan, the illumination expert, fix the cost at approximately ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

In the discussion of this undertaking, those interested have suggested that if feasible, the transformer building be located on the high bluff. This structure should be ornate in character, persumably of stone, of impressive and majestic architecture, which would add beauty, dignity and repose to the surroundings and be ornamental in effect.

Surmounting this electric palace would be the tower to be known as the Peace Tower of Light. Here powerful electric projectors could be placed which would be able to sweep with their brilliant beams the entire scenic spectacle of falls, gorge and rapids.

From this tower could be flashed the great message of Peace in some appropriate manner so that the thousands of visitors from countries all over the world could be duly edified and impressed. What more befitting object lesson to the other nations of the earth than such a sublime and elevating thought—Peace—the popular demand of the Twentieth Century. Here at Niagara's shrine, where millions come to view nature's masterpiece, could be emblazoned upon the heavens that soul-inspiring word.

* * *

Small wonder that Dickens, the greatest of English novelists wrote these memorable words on viewing Niagara:

"Then, when I felt how near to my Creator I was standing, the first effect and the enduring one—instant and lasting—was PEACE."



Illumination of Bridal Veil Falls and Cave of the Winds from the Canadian Side.

The wonderful spectacle unfolded by the illumination of 1907 will be amplified and augmented by the proposed peace affair of 1915. Eight years have worked wonders in the electric world of illuminants. If the 1907 display was an inspiring one, when tens of thousands viewed its wonders and beauties in the short period of its demonstration at that time, what can be said of the approaching one with the great advance made in the electric lighting field?

Foreign tourists who visited the Falls in September, 1907, whether from Europe, Australia or the Far East, were enthusiastic in their expressions of wonderment and pleasure at the remarkable water-night scenes. Disappointment has been keen and repeatedly expressed, particularly by English visitors, who have come to the Falls expecting to view the illumination. They had been given to understand that it was a permanent affair. However, if the Peace Illumination is carried out on the scale proposed, it will be permanent, and in point of brilliancy and magnitude clearly eclipse the one of eight years ago.

* * *

One feature of the former spectacle worthy of comment was the reception accorded it by the literary world. Enconiums and descriptions were fulsome and vivid. The American, English and Canadian dailies were replete with articles and editorials, profusely and strikingly illustrated. Some of these pictures are produced in this brochure. They suggest, but feebly, an idea of the wonderful panorama of water scenes unfolded.

Reprints from some of these articles follow:

NIAGARA FALLS UNDER VARIED COLORED SEARCHLIGHTS.

Imagine, if imagination carries so far, one billion and fifteen million electric candle power, directed in variegated color schemes against the face of the Niagara cataracts, and some idea may be had of what has been accomplished with electric light projectors.—From New York Central Lines. "The Night Cheated."

HUGE SEARCHLIGHTS ENHANCE FALLS' BEAUTY

Niagara Falls, Sept. 4.—Buffalo in the throes of an old home week celebration had to yield to Niagara tonight. Magnificently illuminated, the falls were of a beauty that their

daylight aspect has never equalled. For the first time since a factory was erected to draw its power from the rushing water the garish outlines of the bleak brick buildings were gone, and in their place, lighted up by forty-four thirty-inch searchlights, aggregating 1,115,000 candlepower, were the falls in their old glory.

There was no moon when thousands of persons gathered on the Canadian side. Nothing could be seen of the falls, but the mighty roar and the drifting spray told of their presence. Suddenly a flash shot across the river and danced for a moment alone on the American Falls before a dozen others joined it. In a moment more all the great searchlights were focussed on the great mass of water, which truly shone in the light of its own glory, for it supplied the power used.

Then the lights swung up to the horseshoe in a rush of prismatic color. Every hue in the spectrum was used, and words fail to describe the magnificence of the spectacle. Some feared before the trial that there was to be a desecration of nature, but the natural wonder of the falls was simply enhanced. The sordid sight of the factories and the hurdy-gurdies of the hotels and restaurants was banished. Presently the whole great stretch of the falls was a mass of color, the whirling water beneath was like a pool of flame in the glow of the red searchlights.

Then the lights leaped into the air, to proclaim to Buffalo, to Toronto and even to Rochester, the triumph of electrical genius. As the lights leaped up they seemed to catch the whirling spray of the cataract, and, turning it to all the colors of the rainbow, to hurl it high into the air. Later great bombs of black powder were exploded before the searchlight batteries to form huge clouds of white smoke. As these clouds rolled lazily upward, heavy of themselves and with the spray they caught, the searchlights shot through and through them in iridescent streams of multicolored light.—From the N. Y. Tribune, Sept. 5, '07.

FLOOD OF LIGHT ON FALLS.

NIAGARA ABLAZE WITH COUNTLESS HUES BY NIGHT

Niagara Falls, September 4.—All the folks of Niagara Falls crossed the river into Canada tonight to see their great water falls illuminated by one billion, one hundred and fifteen million candlepower. The figures sound big, but they are

accurate and in keeping with all the other statistics concerning Niagara. * * * Even a John Ruskin, who hated railroads and all other modern contrivances, would probably be surprised into an exclamation of wonder and admiration at the sight of Niagara in the limelight.

W. D'A. Ryan, the illuminating engineer of the General Electric Company, is the man who has done this thing. * * * He simply sought to continue nature's great show after dark. * * * So, after all, the illumination does not cheapen America's great Niagara. It merely cheats the night by turning it into day all up and down the gorge. It gives wonderful tints to the Falls themselves and to the vapor above them, but no more wonderful than the sun put into rainbows or than artists try to put into sunsets. * * * The sensational feature of the night light is that it is concentrated on the foaming waters of the American and Canadian Falls, making them stand out dazzlingly distinct against the blackness of the grim rock cliffs between and on the outer sides.

The batteries of illumination consists of fifty powerful searchlights equipped with both 30-inch and 60-inch projectors and operated by electrical engines of 300 horsepower. Their combined light is the equivalent of that of 1,115,000,000 candles, and the fifty rays, when thrown up together in a vertical column, make a shaft of light visible for 125 miles.

All the rest of the plant consists of color "scintillators," which are circular frames surrounding disks of colored gelatine, which give to the shafts of light all the colors that can be imagined, and some, perhaps, which can't be imagined unless a person is standing just above the gorge, literally and figuratively drinking in the mist of many hues.

* * * At eight o'clock, the hour set for turning on the lights, the balconies and verandas of the Clifton House, on the Canadian side of the river, and all the walks and terraces of Queen Victoria Park were crowded with onlookers, who numbered well up into the tens of thousands. As many more thronged all the vantage places on the American side. They came from as far away as Toronto on the north, and Rochester and Syracuse on the east. Even the attraction of "Old Home Week" in Buffalo didn't prevent many trainloads coming up from that town.

Perhaps the most complimentary thing that can be said of the spectacle is that it was witnessed in dead silence. From all those thousands there was no acclaim, no suggestion of a



The Illumination of the American and Bridgeway Falls



The View of the Illumination from the American and Bridgeway Falls



Niagara Falls as seen from the Canadian Side.



Plazas of the Clifton Hotel, Canada Side.



cheer. They simply gazed and wondered and admired, speechless. The roar of the falls was the only accompaniment for the show.

In the beginning all the power of the fifty searchlights was concentrated upon the American Falls and the Bridal Veil. No color showed at first, and nothing could be a purer white than that huge wall of foam plunging 157 feet down the face of rock. Between the big Falls and the smaller cascade to the right, known as the Bridal Veil, the naked rock stood out gray and grim with every crevice revealed by the fearful glare to the watchers across the river.

Then a broad band of the white foam suddenly turned to red, with a rose-tinted cloud of mist above it mingling with the white vapor. Gradually the red rays suffused the whirlpool below, and then their light made its way up the river, against the rush of water and climbed into the smother of the Horseshoe.

Somebody said "a river of blood," but the remark wasn't as obvious as it might seem to have been. The effect was too beautiful to suggest anything horrible.

Green, orange, blue and violet tints followed, and then all were blended. A score of rainbows spanned the river at the same time, shifting their arcs and changing their combinations of colors as the rays were turned from one cloud of mist to another.

And, finally, when the batteries were turned from the American to the Canadian Falls, huge vertical prisms of light stalked along the heights, illuminating a dense growth of woodland, and appearing as so many ghosts among the trees. —From the N. Y. Evening Post, Sept. 5, '07.

Magnificent Spectacle Shown as Various Tints are Projected by Searchlight.

Niagara Falls illuminated at night by dazzling searchlights is destined to become one of the world's wonders. The thirty days' experiment started last Wednesday night leaped at once into such pronounced favor that the twin cities of Niagara Falls will undoubtedly make the feature permanent.

Rather than taking anything from the grandeur of the tumbling waters, the penetrating shifting rays of light thrown by the immense electric searchlights had given the Falls a new glory. * * * This was the second venture in the illumination of the falls. The first was made in 1884 by Albert Bierstadt, who brought a party of English railroad men to Niagara to interest them in the construction of a railroad. Bierstadt wanted to show the falls off at night and conceived

a scheme of illumination by burning quantities of powder. He took the party to the foot of the old ferry stairway and placed the powder on the ledge of rocks underneath the American falls. The display was pyrotechnic enough to delight his visitors. The only trouble was that much of the powder became wet from the spray and did not ignite. * * * The electric panorama begins each night with a mellow light thrown upon the American falls. Then the full battery is turned on and the falls on both sides are lighted up with a white brilliancy.

After this scene red, green and blue tints are trained upon both falls. It is a magic effect. The red light, caught by the churning, hissing water beneath the falls, makes it seem as though the river must be a torrent of blood. In turn the falls take the hues of the rainbow and the rapids are changed to dark green.

Then clouds of smoke are sent up from bombs exploded in front of the projectors. Vari-colored lights are played upon the smoke as it rises to the black heavens. The smoke is tinted white, then given the hue of a crimson sunset. Strong columns of white were sent to the crest of the falls then gradually changed to delicate tints down to the seething bottom of the cataract, giving the whole scene a rich framework. In this burst of fantastic glory the panorama is ended.—From the N. Y. World, Sept. 9, '07.

SEARCHLIGHTS THROW BEAMS ON THE FALLS.

Niagara Falls, Sept. 4.—The Falls of Niagara were successfully illuminated to-night, and throngs of people crowded the American and Canadian shores to watch the spectacle. * * * For some time after the first illumination the white light was maintained on the American falls. Then a gleam of rose-colored light appeared, and this was followed by a green tint. Rapidly the colors were changed until the falls assumed all the colors of the rainbow.

Besides illuminating both falls, the searchlights were thrown up in the air. The pure white lights of all the projectors finally were thrown simultaneously on all the falls, causing them to gleam like molten metal.—From the N. Y. Times, Sept. 5, '07.

THIRTY-SIX POWERFUL SEARCHLIGHTS WERE UTILIZED.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Sept. 4, 1907.—For the first time to-night the power of Niagara Falls was turned back to illuminate the cataracts. Lights aggregating 1,115,000,000 candle-power,

thrown from thirty-six great lensed reflectors, changing the tumbling mass of water into sparkling cataracts of iridescent beauty.

Twenty-one 15-inch and fifteen 30-inch searchlights set in batteries which were scattered along the gorge and cliffs above on the Canadian side converged their rays first on the American Falls and then on the Horseshoe Falls. At first the light was white, but gradually turned to a roseate tint, then green, yellow and blue, until the foaming waters glittered with all the soft rays of the rainbow. So well were the lights managed, that under them the natural beauty of the Falls did not suffer but was enhanced.

Occasionally all the lights were turned upwards, their rays forming a great colored fan, visible on a clear night for one hundred miles.

The lights were designed and the plant—the largest in the world—by W. D'A. Ryan of the General Electric Company. The scheme of lighting the Falls was conceived by Mayor A. C. Douglas of Niagara Falls, the expense borne by the business men of the city.

The lighting scheme will be continued for thirty days and perhaps permanently. Large crowds of people, from Canadian and American cities are witnessing the wonderful illumination nightly.—Toronto Mail and Empire, Sept. 5, 1907.

The Peace Illumination of the Niagara Cataracts will have absolutely no commercial aspect. It is planned purely from an aesthetic and edifying viewpoint for the benefit of the peoples of the American Continent and the tens of thousands of travelers who visit our shores.

Every element entering into the undertaking will be subordinated to the idea of accentuating Niagara's wealth of scenery and of glorifying her magnificent waterfalls.

* * *

Mr. W. D'Arcy Ryan has offered to submit plans, specifications and estimates regarding the installation of electrical projectors, convertors, rheostats, switchboards and all electrical apparatus for such an illuminating plant, to any commission authorized to incur the expense of such installation, free of cost, and will gladly give his services and experience to such commission as consulting engineer.

The one hundred thousand dollar estimate will include not only the complete installation of electric machinery for the lighting, but also the upkeep and operation for an extended period afterwards.

* * *

The American people have twice taken the initiative in this matter of the illumination of the falls. A bill was passed in the legislature of New York State last year providing an appropriation of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS for the purchase and maintenance of the necessary electrical equipment and the installation of the same, provided that the people of Canada would make a similar appropriation, to wit—FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS. These two sums would make the necessary ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS to cover the entire expense of the illuminating plant.

The New York State Legislature will again have before it a similar bill, and it is expected and essential that her neighbor meet her half-way in the matter. As Canadians will be called upon to act in regard to the Peace Centenary, it is suggested that part at least of her contribution might be expended to help establish the illumination of Niagara Falls.

The erection of the Peace Illumination Building and the wonderful Peace Tower, together with the complete installation of the reflectors and transforming machinery, will of necessity be on Canadian territory in order to effect the purposes of this splendid illumination project.

It will reflect most highly the progress of art and civilization and be to the credit of all who participate or lend their influence in its consummation.

It is most sincerely hoped that it will be realized and be made a permanency; that it will operate for years to come as a continuing evidence of universal peace.



ADDENDUM.

Peace history has been making at Niagara Falls during the season of 1914.

Three South American Republics—Brazil, Argentine and Chile by their Ambassadors and Minister Plenipotentiary respectively to Washington proposed to the United States and Mexico that they hold a Mediation Court to bring about peace in Mexico and settle the vexed questions between that country and the United States. The offer was accepted and early in May the Dominion of Canada was named as the neutral country in which to hold such conference. Niagara Falls, Ontario, and the Clifton Hotel were chosen as the city and domicile for the sessions of the A. B. C. Mediators.

The Canadian Government extended a cordial welcome to the Mediators and Envoys and sent a special commission to Niagara Falls to represent the Dominion at the opening of the Conference.

* * *

His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada at a garden party in Toronto, May 27, 1914, entertained the A. B. C. Mediators, the Mexican and United State Envoys, expressed to them his appreciation of their efforts and emphasized the importance of peace throughout the world.

* * *

The Canadian Club of Niagara Falls gave a Peace Dinner at the Clifton Hotel, June 2, 1914, to the Mediators and Envoys which was a most brilliant function, covers being laid for 300 guests.

His Majesty, George V., King of England, sent a special cablegram to the Club as follows:—

“Please express to the members of the Canadian Club of Niagara Falls on the occasion of their dinner to the Mediators my greeting and my appreciation of your good wishes on my birthday.

GEORGE R. I.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Sir John Gibson, in his opening speech, remarked:

“If the labors of these distinguished gentlemen meet with success and peace is established in Mexico the A. B. C. Mediators will have given a lesson to the whole world.”

The Board of Trade of Niagara Falls tendered the A. B. C. Mediators and the Envoys an elaborate reception the last week in May, 1914, at which all speeches breathed peace. The President of the Board, Joseph E. Montague, in a particularly powerful address said: —

"We in this part of the country which has seen so much war earnestly hope that the conference end successfully and that Niagara Falls will thunder down the ages to come, 'Peace! Peace!'"

* * *

The A. B. C. Peace Conference occupied many weeks. Those engaged expressed appreciation that its sessions had taken place at Niagara Falls where some of the functions of the Peace Centenary of the English-Speaking Peoples will take place in 1915.

Regrets that the experimental illumination of the Falls in 1907, had not been maintained were expressed by the distinguished visitors. All united in the hope that the United States and the Dominion of Canada would arrange for such an illumination in 1915 to mark the inauguration of the great 100 Years Peace Jubilee.



The American Falls Illuminated in Miniature.

EPILOGUE.

"And the skies of night were alive with light, with a
throbbing, thrilling flame,
Amber and rose and violet, opal and gold it came.
It swept the sky like a giant scythe, it quivered back
to a wedge;
Argently bright, it cleft the night, with a wavy
golden edge.
Pennants of silver waved and streamed, lazy banners
unfurled;
Sudden splendors of sabres gleamed, lightning jave-
lins were hurled.

* * * * *

They rippled green with a wondrous sheen, they flut-
tered out like a fan;
They spread with a blaze of rose-pink rays never yet
seen of man.

* * * * *

From depths of darkness fathomless, their lancing
rays were hurled,
Like the all-combining searchlights of the navies of
the world."

—Service's Ballad of the Northern Lights."

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